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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/983,000	10/17/2001	Sabine Mueller	AGYT-006	7766

24353 7590 07/14/2004

BOZICEVIC, FIELD & FRANCIS LLP  
200 MIDDLEFIELD RD  
SUITE 200  
MENLO PARK, CA 94025

EXAMINER

FETTEROLF, BRANDON J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1642

DATE MAILED: 07/14/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

### Application No.

09/983,000

### Applicant(s)

MUELLER ET AL.

### Examiner

Brandon J Fetterolf, PhD

### Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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Mueller *et al.*

Priority Date : 10/17/2001

### DETAILED ACTION

In response to the applicant's second status inquiry filed on 12/22/2003, claims 1-17 are currently pending and under consideration.

#### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112*

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 1-4, 6-11, and 13-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claims contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

The claims are broadly drawn to method of treating a brain tumor by administering a compound of the general formula  $\alpha$ (VIPR2) which specifically binds to a human vasoactive intestinal peptide receptor-2. The specification teaches (page 46, line 9) that a compound that specifically binds to VIPR-2 is any compound (such as an antibody) that has a binding affinity for any naturally offering isoform, splice variant, or polymorphism of VIPR-2, thus applicants' claims encompass a genus of compounds with the stated biological properties. However, the written description only reasonably conveys an antibody or antibodies that specifically binds to VIPR-2. The instant disclosure of a single species of an antibody that binds to VIPR-2 fails to adequately describe the scope of the claimed genus (any compound), which encompasses a substantial variety of subgenera-, i.e. peptides, organic molecules, enzymes, antibodies, or oligonucleotides. A description of a genus of compounds may be achieved by means of a recitation of a representative number of compounds, defined by structure, falling within the scope of the genus. However, the instant specification fails to provide sufficient descriptive information, such as definitive structural or functional features of the claimed genus of compounds that would distinguish the claimed

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compound from other molecules that do not have the claimed biological properties. Since the disclosure fails to describe the common attributes or characteristics that identify members of the genus, and because the genus is highly variant, the disclosure of an antibody is insufficient to describe the genus. Thus, one of skill in the art would reasonably conclude that the disclosure fails to provide a representative number of species to describe and enable the genus as broadly claimed.

*Vas-Cath Inc. v. Mahurkar*, 19USPQ2d 1111, clearly states “applicant must convey with reasonable clarity to those skilled in the art that, as of the filing date sought, he or she was in possession of *the invention*. The invention is, for purposes of the ‘written description’ inquiry, *whatever is now claimed*.” (See page 1117.) The specification does not “clearly allow persons of ordinary skill in the art to recognize that [he or she] invented what is claimed.” (See *Vas-Cath* at page 1116). As discussed above, the skilled artisan cannot envision the detailed chemical structure of the encompassed genus of compounds, and therefore conception is not achieved until reduction to practice has occurred, regardless of the complexity or simplicity of the method of isolation. Adequate written description requires more than a mere statement that it is part of the invention and reference to a potential method of isolating it. The compound itself is required. See *Fiers v. Revel*, 25 USPQ2d 1601 at 1606 (CAFC 1993) and *Amgen Inc. v. Chugai Pharmaceutical Co. Ltd.*, 18 USPQ2d 1016.

One cannot describe what one has not conceived. See *Fiddes v. Baird*, 30 USPQ2d 1481 at 1483. In *Fiddes*, claims directed to mammalian FGF's were found to be unpatentable due to lack of written description for that broad class. The specification provided only the bovine sequence.

Therefore, only a compound that specifically binds to VIPR-2 wherein said compound is an antibody, but not the full breadth of the claims, meets the written description provision of 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Applicant is reminded that *Vas-Cath* makes clear that the written description provision of 35 U.S.C. §112 is severable from its enablement provision (see page 1115).

Claims 1-17 are further rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claims contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

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The instant claims read on a method of treating a brain tumor comprising administering a composition comprising a compound which specifically binds to the vasoactive intestinal peptide receptor 2, wherein the binding alters the function of the vasoactive intestinal peptide receptor 2. Thus, the claims read on any compound that specifically binds to the vasoactive intestinal peptide receptor for the treatment of a brain tumor. The scope of the instant claims is not commensurate with the enablement of the instant disclosure, because practice of the claimed invention would require undue experimentation by an artisan of ordinary skill in the art. The instant specification is not enabling for claims drawn to a method of treating a brain tumor comprising administering a compound that specifically binds to the vasoactive intestinal peptide receptor 2.

The factors to be considered in determining whether undue experimentation is required are summarized in *re Wands* 858 F.2d 731, 8 USPQ2d 1400 (Fed. Cir, 1988). The court in *Wands* states: "Enablement is not precluded by the necessity for some experimentation such as routine screening. However, experimentation needed to practice the invention must not be undue experimentation. The key word is 'undue,' not 'experimentation.'" (*Wands*, 8 USPQ2d 1404). Clearly, enablement of a claimed invention cannot be predicated on the basis of quantity of experimentation required to make or use the invention. "Whether undue experimentation is needed is not a single, simple factual determination, but rather is a conclusion reached by weighing many factual considerations." (*Wands*, 8 USPQ2d 1404). The factors to be considered in determining whether undue experimentation is required include: (1) the quantity of experimentation necessary, (2) the amount or direction or guidance presented, (3) the presence or absence of working examples, (4) the nature of the invention, (5) the state of the prior art, (6) the relative skill of those in the art, (7) the predictability or unpredictability of the art, and (8) the breadth of the claims.

The instant specification provides insufficient guidance and objective evidence to predictably enable one of skill in the art to use the invention as claimed. For example, wherein the claimed compounds are antibodies, those of skill in the art would recognize the unpredictability of treating tumors with antibodies. For example, Jain (*Scientific American* July 1994) discloses barriers to the delivery of drugs into solid tumors. These impediments include (1) Non-uniform blood delivery to all areas of the tumor in which some areas of the tumor receive therapeutic agents and other areas of the tumor receive no therapeutic agent at all. (Page 60 col. 3); (2) Increased viscosity of blood in the tumor itself which also hinders drug delivery to

the tumor (see paragraph bridging pages 60 and 61); (3) High liquid pressures in the interstitial matrix can retard the delivery of large therapeutic agents, such as antibodies, into tumors (page 61, Col. 1 paragraph 1); (4) Convection is a necessary mechanism by which larger therapeutics molecules such as antibodies, reach target cells which are not directly fed by the vasculature. Convection is not observed in large tumors (defined as more than ½ centimeter in diameter, page 62 col. 1) and convection is necessary for adequate drug delivery of molecules having a molecular weight of more than 5000 (page 61, col. 1 through page 63, col. 3) and (4) Molecules as large as antibodies (i.e., MW=150,000) would require several months to reach a uniform concentration in a tumor that measures 1 centimeter in radius (page 63, col. 2). Further, Dillman (Annals of Internal Medicine, Volume 111, pages 592-603, 1989) summarizes (see abstract) the status of in-vivo use of monoclonal antibodies for treating cancer wherein despite advances in biotechnology, many major hurdles persist including tumor cell heterogeneity, lack of cytotoxicity, and the development of human anti-mouse antibodies (HAMA). Also, Weiner (Seminars Oncology, Vol. 26, No.4, 1999, pages 41-50) provided an overview of monoclonal antibody of therapy including some promising activity, however major obstacles to clinical efficacy still exist extending the unpredictability of this treatment. This includes impaired distribution and delivery of antibody to the tumor site, inadequate trafficking of potential cellular effectors to tumor, antigenic heterogeneity, shed or internalized targets, insufficient target specificity, and induction of HAMA (page 43). The above obstacles are further compounded by the fact that, in this case, the various VIP/PACAP receptor subtypes are present not only in tumors but also in the great majority of the nonneoplastic, normal tissues of origin (Reubi *et al.* Cancer Research, Vol. 60, 2000, page 3108, 1<sup>st</sup> column, 7<sup>th</sup> paragraph). Hence, in the words of Weiner there is a total lack of target specificity. For instance, the claims are drawn to "treating" a brain tumor. This treatment necessarily includes administration of a ligand to the vasoactive intestinal peptide receptor along with a non-toxic pharmaceutical acceptable carrier. However, Isfort *et al.* (US Patent 6750194, 10/23/2000) teaches (page 12, 2<sup>nd</sup> column, line 34+) that in humans, "the VPAC2 (*VIPR2*) receptor has been shown to be expressed in lung, pancreas, brain, kidney, skeletal muscle, stomach, heart, and placenta." Therefore, expression of the *VIPR2* receptor is *not limited* to brain tumors. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the field of oncology would not expect the claimed invention to effectively treat a brain tumor because the treatment would also

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destroy healthy, normal cells of the lung, pancreas, kidney, skeletal muscle, stomach, heart, and placenta that also express the VIPR2 receptor. Thus, such a method would effectively harm the individual instead of treating the individual. Further, the disclosure provides no objective evidence or working examples to lend one of ordinary skill in the art a reasonable expectation of success. Lack of working examples is given added weight in cases involving an unpredictable and undeveloped art such as the treatment of tumors with antibodies.

In the instant case, the claims are so broadly drawn, the guidance is so limited, and the art is so unpredictable that it would require undue experimentation to successfully practice the invention as claimed.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1-19 are rejected as vague and indefinite for reciting the term vasoactive intestinal peptide receptor-2 in association with binding characteristics as the sole means of identifying the claimed molecule. The use of laboratory designations only to identify a particular molecule renders the claims indefinite because different laboratories may use the same laboratory designations to define completely distinct molecules. The rejection can be obviated by amending the claims to specifically and uniquely identify vasoactive intestinal peptide receptor-2, for example, by SEQ ID NO: 20 (specification, page 45).

Therefore, no claims are allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brandon J Fetterolf, PhD whose telephone number is (571)-272-2919. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Friday from 8:30 to 5:00.

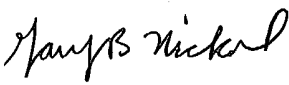
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeff Siew can be reached on (571) 272-0787. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Brandon J Fetterolf, PhD  
Examiner  
Art Unit 1642

BF

  
**GARY B. NICKOL, PH.D.**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**